

**Media Release
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Where's Rodney on Climate Leadership?

EAC Calling on Nova Scotia to Join Provincial GHG Accord

Halifax - Premiers Campbell, Doer, McGuinty and Charest have announced that they will develop a cap and trade system to cut greenhouse gas emissions, and are inviting other provinces to participate. The Ecology Action Centre and Canada's Climate Action Network want Premier MacDonald to join in this discussion.

Cap and trade systems of regulation and economic incentives and disincentives are seen as the most reliable way to cut the industrial greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming. It is used by the European Union and has been adopted by the New England and western states of the US.

"This is a huge boost for climate action in Canada," said David Coon, Chair of Canada's Climate Action Network. "Everyone knows that the only effective way to cut industrial emissions is through regulation, and that a price needs to be placed on carbon to move us toward a low carbon economy. A cap and trade system accomplishes both objectives," said Coon.

Before the meeting of the Council of the Federation, Premier MacDonald's office issued a press release stating that "a healthy environment contributes to a healthy economy. We are one of the first jurisdictions in the country to set our environmental targets in legislation".

Given that reaching Nova Scotia's target to reduce GHGs 10% below 1990 levels by 2020 is enshrined in law, the potential for Nova Scotia to join other Premiers in a joint effort presents a huge opportunity according to the EAC.

"Without regulations on GHGs, Nova Scotia won't meet its legislated target. If we don't regulate to meet the target the Premier could be breaking his own law," said EAC Energy Coordinator, Brendan Haley.

Mr. Haley said that a cap and trade system will not only place a cap to ensure the provincial target is met, but also provide opportunities for Nova Scotia to go beyond the provincial target.

Next week a workshop for government officials from Eastern Canada and New England will more closely examine cap and trade systems regulation on Monday February 4th and Tuesday February 5th at the Delta in Saint John.

"In the absence of meaningful federal regulations, it is essential that Nova Scotia join this collaborative effort by Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia to establish a cap and trade system in Canada. It is the only way the Premier can be assured of achieving the limits on emissions he has adopted. We are hoping Premier MacDonald will make just such an announcement following the cap and trade workshop next week," said Haley.

BC, Manitoba, Ontario, and Quebec contain nearly 80% of Canada's population and are responsible for half of Canada's total greenhouse gas emissions.